

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05 CCO-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-05 OPR-02

PA-01 USSS-00 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05

FBO-02 SCS-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-10 /096 W  
----- 087275

O R 262047Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3867

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LISBON

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0996

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI AO

SUBJECT: FNLA STILL IN CAXITO

1. I HAVE SPENT THE HOURS SINCE MY RETURN TRYING TO VERIFY THE  
STORIES THAT FNLA IS JUST NORTH OF LUANDA. EVERYONE HERE IS  
ACTING ON RUMORS AND EMOTION. I FINALLY GOT HOLD OF HIGH COMMISSIONER  
GENERAL CARDOSO AT THE DINNER TABLE AT 2100 HOURS WITH COLONEL  
ALMENDRA, COMMANDER OF THE LUANDA OPERATIONAL COMMAND.

2. CARDOSO SAID THAT THE FNLA IS STILL IN CAXITO ITSELF AND THAT  
THE SITUATION HAS NOT CHANGED APPRECIABLE IN THE LAST 24 TO 36  
HOURS. THE MPLA WITHDREW FROM THE TOWN IN GOOD ORDER AND HAS  
FORMED UP SOUTH OF CAXITO. THE PORTUGUESE HAVE SOME INTELLIGENCE  
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THAT INDICATES MPLA FORCES MAY BE TRYING TO COME IN BEHIND FNLA

FROM PIRI AND OTHER POINTS ON THE CAXITO/CARMONA ROAD. HE EMPHASIZED THAT MOST OF HIS INFORMATION IS BASED ON AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE, WHICH SHOWS A STAGNANT SITUATION AND POSSIBLE MOVEMENT WESTWARD BY MPLA FROM PIRI. RECONNAISSANCE ALSO SHOWS POSSIBLE MPLA PRESSURE ON CAXITO FROM THE SOUTH.

3. CARDOSO SAID HE DOES NOT THINK THE FNLA WILL SOON ATTEMPT TO ENTER LUANDA. HE RECOGNIZED THE SITUATION COULD CHANGE QUICKLY, BUT THAT WAS THE BEST ESTIMATE OF THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY AT THE TIME I TALKED WITH HIM. HE TALKED ON JULY 25 WITH FNLA MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR NGOLA KABANGU, WHO PROMISED THAT IF FNLA DID ENTER LUANDA IT WOULD NOT ATTACK THE POPULACE OR CARRY OUT REPRISALS. I DID NOT PURUSE THIS POINT WITH HIM, BUT I AM CONVINCED THERE WOULD BE REPRISALS AND THERE CERTAINLY WOULD BE MAJOR VIOLENCE, AS MPLA TROOPS AND IRREGULARS WOULD FIGHT SAVAGELY IN THE GHETTOS.

4. THE TWO PORTUGUESE COMPANIES THAT WERE STATIONED IN CAXITO AND BARRA DE DANDE, SAID CARDOSO, HAVE BEEN MOVED TO MABUBAS (8' 32" SOUTH, 13' 42" EAST).

5. I BRIEFED HIM ON THE SITUATION IN CARMONA. HE SAID THAT A PORTUGUESE ARMY CONVOY WILL LEAVE JULY 27 FOR CARMONA VIA SALAZAR WITH FOOD AND FUEL.

6. I PRESSED HIM ON THE SWITCH IN PORTUGUESE STRATEGY IN THE PAST FEW DAYS FROM ONE OF DEFENDING LUANDA TO A DECISION NOT TO OPPOSE FNLA ENTRY. HE WAS UNWILLING TO DISCUSS THE POLITICS BEHIND THE SWITCH AND LIMITED HIMSELF TO SAYING THAT THE POLICY OF PORTUGUESE NEUTRALITY WILL BE UPHELD.

7. IN CONCLUSION, CARDOSO SAID THAT IF FNLA HAD THE STRENGTH TO ENTER LUANDA THEY WOULD HAVE DONE SO BY NOW.

8. I TOLD HIM I WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM JULY 27 FOR ANOTHER BRIEFING.  
KILLORAN

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